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WKU Student Affairs

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
Volume 84, Number 26
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com



LUKE SHARRETT/HERALD

A couple shares a celebratory kiss on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. while waiting for the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, on Jan. 20.

HILL to HILL

Western students, local residents travel to D.C.

EMILY ULBER
news@chherald.com

Saundra Ardrey has been taking students to presidential inaugurations since 1989.

But Ardrey, the head of the political science department, said she had never seen Washington, D.C., quite the same as it was last week.

"It was really noticeable almost immediately that the mood of the city was different," Ardrey said. "There was a sense of unity."

Ardrey brought 56 students and community members to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Jan. 20.

The students rode a bus to their hotel in Pennsylvania and to the nearest metro station, nearly 60 miles away. The group took the metro to Washington.

"The planning for this was monumental," Ardrey said. "There were just so many people who wanted to go, not just from campus, but worldwide."

Bowling Green junior Jennifer McCoy said she knew she wanted to attend the inauguration the moment Obama was elected.

McCoy attended the ceremony with Ardrey and the other Western students.

"It was crazy," she said. "As I was walking down the street, everyone was smiling and laughing. It reminded me of pictures I saw in my history books of Martin Luther King. I felt like I was a part of history."

Ardrey said that, while the entire event was emotional, the most poignant moment was when Obama took the oath of office.



DANIEL HOUGHTON/HERALD

Crowds estimated at 1.8 million by the National Park Service gathered from the steps of the Capitol all the way to the Lincoln Memorial to watch the swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. After thanking President George W. Bush for his service to the nation, Obama spoke for about 20 minutes.

began the task of keeping warm.

Beach balls danced in the air, people attempted to walk on the reflecting pool and others initiated "the wave."

In an attempt to thaw out our feet, we pushed our way toward the front before coming across a few children perched atop the Port-o-Potties. A boost later and I was joining them on top of a john and within minutes every toilet rooftop for 100 yards was graced with onlookers.

From the top of my V.I.P. seating I stood to find the Mall brimming with colorful scarves, hats and coats as far as my eyes could see. Kids rode on their parents shoulders and people were draped upon tree limbs.

Tiny as an ant against the pavement, I saw Barack Obama, in the flesh, descend the steps of the Memorial as the crowd roared.

A variety of stars presented songs and read passages that emphasized the relevance of being at the Lincoln Memorial.

Students battle crowd to witness history

COLLEEN STEWART
diversions@chherald.com

WASHINGTON— From a rooftop in Washington D.C., I stood in awe watching millions of car headlights pierce the darkness infinitely into the distance.

The traffic was pulsing toward the Capitol. Oblivious to the biting wind, I watched the droves of people migrating from all over the world to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

The day of the Inaugural concert, we arrived at the National Mall to find the entire reflection pool frozen. Legions of Port-o-Potties radiated in every direction. After claiming a grassy plot on the left slope of the Mall hill, we

Western braces budget cut

MARIANNE HALE
news@chherald.com

The state's budget forecast has left Western administrators pinching pennies this semester.

Western officials will try to save money put away for nonrecurring, or one-time, expenses in case the state takes back the money needed to balance the budget.

One-time expenses include equipment replacement and maintenance issues, said Ann Mead, vice president for finance and administration.

But money set aside for one-time expenses wouldn't be enough to pay for a reduction to Western's base budget next year, she said.

A team of independent economists predicted the state would have a \$456 million budget shortfall, said Jay Blanton, spokesman for the governor's office.

Gov. Steve Beshear asked state agencies, including state universities and city governments, to show how they'd cut 4 percent from their budgets.

After seeing their proposals, Beshear proposed a 2 percent cut to higher education to help pay for the state's projected shortfall, President Gary Ransdell said.

A 4 percent cut would slice about \$3.2 million off of Western's budget, he said. A 2 percent cut would shave off about \$1.6 million.

SEE **BUDGET**, PAGE 7

Shutdown exceeds expectations

JOSH MOORE
news@chherald.com

Western saved some green by being green during Winter Break.

Officials will release final numbers this week on how much energy was saved during a campus-wide shutdown over Winter Break.

Officials are happy with the preliminary results.

"We exceeded all of our goals, so I think we can call it a success," Sustainability Coordinator Christian Ryan-Downing said.

Western was hoping to save 1 million kilowatt-hours, or about \$80,000, over a one-month period by setting building thermometers to 60 degrees for three weeks and asking faculty and staff to turn off or unplug unused office equipment and appliances, according to the shutdown proposal.

SEE **SHUTDOWN**, PAGE 7

SEE **TRAVEL**, PAGE 9

SEE **HISTORY**, PAGE 9



GET **INSIDE** THE HERALD



**10 QUESTIONS
PAGE 10**

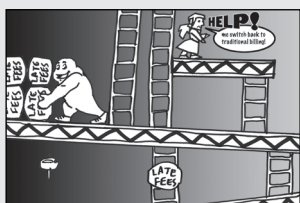
DIVERSIONS



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Bowling Green junior juggles school and family after mother's death
PAGE 6

OPINION



BILLS, BILLS, BILLS

Western's new e-billing system should have been better publicized
PAGE 4

SPORTS



UPS AND DOWNS

Western's basketball teams still trying to find their way
SPORTS PAGE

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2

DAY

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		1		7		9		
7	3						2	8
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	6						3	
		7	2		3	4		
8			6	5	4			1

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9 with no repeats. Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

54

Was a movie released in 1998 about the famous 1970s NYC nightclub seen and told through the eyes of a young employee.

32

Is a term given to a generation of computers in which a 32-bit processors were the norm.

21

Was a movie released in 2008 that was based on a true story about six MIT students who were trained to become experts in card counting.

Source: <http://www.amusingfacts.com/facts/Statistics/>

WHAT’S GOING ON

TODAY

27

- ◆ BCM 180 Worship Service, 7 p.m., GH 235
- ◆ Beginners Spanish, 6 p.m., Glasgow campus, room 261
- ◆ Disciples of Christ, 7 p.m., DUC 341
- ◆ Housing & Resident Life Recruitment, 11 a.m., DUC lobby
- ◆ Presidents Roundtable, 4 p.m., DUC 349
- ◆ SGA student senate meeting, 5 p.m., DUC 305
- ◆ Table Tennis Club, 6 p.m., DUC rec room
- ◆ Weight Watchers, 10:30 a.m., DUC 349

TOMORROW

28

- ◆ American Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:30 p.m., Glasgow campus, room 131
- ◆ Black Men of Western, 6 p.m., DUC 310B, DUC 310C
- ◆ Blood Drive, 7:45 a.m., Garrett Ballroom
- ◆ Relaxation Session, noon, Garrett 100

THURSDAY

29

- ◆ NAACP Rehearsal, 2 p.m., Garrett Ballroom
- ◆ Relaxation Session, 4:15 p.m., Garrett 100
- ◆ Welcome Back Week - CAB, 10 a.m., DUC
- ◆ Western Leader Info Session, 5:30 p.m., DUC 305

FRIDAY

30

- ◆ Faculty recital with Michele Fiala, oboe and Donald Speer, piano, 7:30 p.m., FAC recital hall
- ◆ Gamers’ Guild - Terrarium Tabletop Game, 5:30 p.m., DUC 310A
- ◆ High School Leadership, 8 a.m., various DUC locations
- ◆ Rip the Runway, 8 p.m., DUC 224

SATURDAY

31

- ◆ Guest recital with L. Barrett, oboe and R. Cain, bassoon, 5 p.m., FAC recital hall
- ◆ Gamers Guild, 5 p.m., DUC 310
- ◆ Opera rehearsal, noon, Garrett Ballroom
- ◆ Spring preview, 8 a.m., various DUC locations
- ◆ Star Events, 8 a.m., various Academic Complex locations

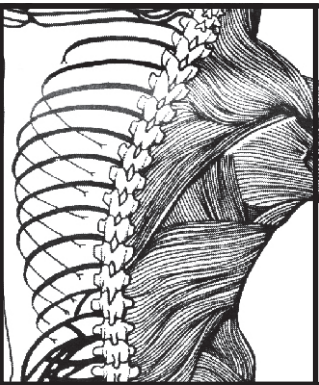
The calendar runs every Tuesday. Send your event post request by 3 p.m. Monday to calendar@chherald.com.

► CRIME REPORT

Report
◆ Teresa Anthony, Bookstore Association Supervisor at the University Bookstore, reported on Jan. 21 that \$437.82 worth of merchandise was purchased online from the bookstore using a stolen credit card.

The Herald

Every Tuesday and Thursday



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ACADEMICS

Western introduces electronic billing

MANDY SIMPSON
news@chherald.com

The finance department gave Big Red a green makeover just in time for the holidays.

His new tint saved trees and thousands of dollars, but some students struggled with the change.

This semester, Western officials did away with paper billing, opting to send students e-mails notifying them of e-bills on their TopNet accounts, Bursar Belinda Higginbotham said.

The finance department sent a paper duplicate of students' e-bills for more than a year, she said. But this transition will eliminate paper billing

in favor of exclusive online transactions.

"Our students are so technologically savvy on their e-mail accounts that it's the official form of communication for the university," Higginbotham said.

The switch saved Western about \$20,000 in postage and paper costs this year, said Ann Mead, vice president for finance and administration. She said e-billing will save about \$35,000 to \$40,000 next year because paperless billing will be used for fall and spring semesters.

Higginbotham said she has received positive feedback about the change from students

and parents.

Henderson sophomore Callee Collins said she particularly liked the ability to access all of her information online.

"It makes things a lot easier," she said. "You can just get online and type in your credit card number and not have to send anything."

However, there's about a 3 percent convenience fee for using a credit card or a \$5 fee for paying electronically from

a bank account, Higginbotham said.

Students still have the option of mailing in payments, she said.

The finance department sent e-mails to notify students of their online bills, but about 60 students' e-mails were returned as undeliverable because their accounts were over quota, Higginbotham said.

Department members sent a second e-mail to those students at

a later point, but Higginbotham said she is unsure if it reached them all.

Several other students contacted the department unable to find the notification e-mail. But their problem had a simpler solution, Higginbotham said.

"When we've gone back to check, students will say 'Oh, I guess I just deleted it,'" she said.

Bowling Green sophomore Marcus Steele said e-billing made it harder for him to pay his bill for Winter Term.

"I would rather have something that I can hold in my hand to tell me I need to pay than getting something electronically," he said.

Students may specify another e-mail address to which the financial department will send bill notifications, Higginbotham said.

Students can choose a second e-mail on their TopNet accounts.

Other state universities have also switched to exclusive e-billing. Rochelle Seals, director of accounting at Eastern Kentucky University, said Eastern's switch has been fairly seamless, but their payment deadline hasn't passed.

She hopes to add the option of a second e-mail like Western's to ensure notification e-mails reach the appropriate people, she said.

ACADEMICS

Winter Term enrollment stagnate, officials cite economic situation

MANDY SIMPSON
news@chherald.com

Women Studies Instructor Molly Kerby began Winter Term with 17 students in her online class.

But when she woke up on Jan. 6, only eight students remained.

Inability to meet the payment deadline left the majority of her students unable to complete her course, Kerby said.

During this year's Winter Term, 37 percent more students than last year dropped by the payment deadline, said Beth Laves, assistant to the dean of the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach.

The majority of drops were a result of non-payment, she said.

Winter Term administrators felt disappointed by the large drop, Laves said. December enrollment for the term reached about 2,800 students, the largest peak in Winter Term's three-year history.

"We just had hoped for

growth in mid-December," she said. "We were ecstatic."

Unofficially, 2,247 students completed the term, she said. DELO will release official numbers later this week.

The final enrollment was on par with last year's numbers despite the drop, Provost Barbara Burch said.

"We suspect that the economic situation contributed a good bit to students being unable to afford the Winter Term," Burch said.

Winter Term classes cost \$289 per credit hour for undergraduate resident students, according to the Winter Term and Spring Semester 2009 Registration Guide.

Louisville junior Josh Mabry said he was fortunate his parents could pay for his Winter Term class.

"Eight hundred dollars for one class seems very expensive," he said. "That money just isn't there anymore for Americans."

Students enrolled in online courses such as Kerby's had trouble if they couldn't meet

the payment deadline because they were immediately dropped from Blackboard, Kerby said. This left students incapable of continuing the class while working to pay their bills.

"I was highly perturbed by it," Kerby said. "Give them time to pay. Don't drive them out of Blackboard."

Burch said she's not concerned for future winter and summer term enrollment because both have seen large growth every year until now, she said.

But Laves said she worries that the economic situation will continue to strain students' budgets.

"For winter and summer terms, because it's optional and because of this economy, it's a harder decision," she said. "Do you get a job and work or take extra classes?"

Laves said Western's Enrollment Task Force is exploring ways to help keep students from falling too far behind while working to make payments for classes.

► NEWS BRIEF

Fire interrupts swim meet in Preston over Winter Break

A fire in Preston Center over Winter Break caused about \$80,000 in damage, Project Manager Kerra Ogden said.

"We're moving as quickly as we can to get it back and operational," she said.

The fire interrupted a high school swim meet on Saturday, Dec. 13 and forced the evacuation of about 60 people,

according to a Western press release.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation, Ogden said.

The fire was contained in the dry sauna room of the men's faculty locker room, but smoke damage also ruined the locker room, said Bryan Russell, director of planning, design and construction.

"The real damage was done by the smoke," he said. "It smelled terrible."

The high school swim meet

that was in progress at the time of the fire was relocated to Bowling Green High School. Preston was closed for the rest of the weekend, according to the press release.

Those visitors with items in the locker room were allowed to get their items on the Tuesday through Thursday following the fire, according to an e-mail sent to faculty and staff by Steve Ray, intramural-recreational sports director.

— Josh Moore



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PEOPLE
POLL

What are you most excited about this semester?



Felix Perrone
Henderson
freshman

Another season of WKU Dodgeball.



Tom Schatzinger
Smithfield
sophomore

Spring Break '09.



Delayna Earley
Richmond, Va.
senior

I am looking forward to my major classes and it getting warmer.



Adam Martin
Hardinsburg
sophomore

Training for boxing at the Preston Center and learning how to use my digital camera.

COLLEGE HEIGHTS
HERALD

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SUBMISSIONS

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

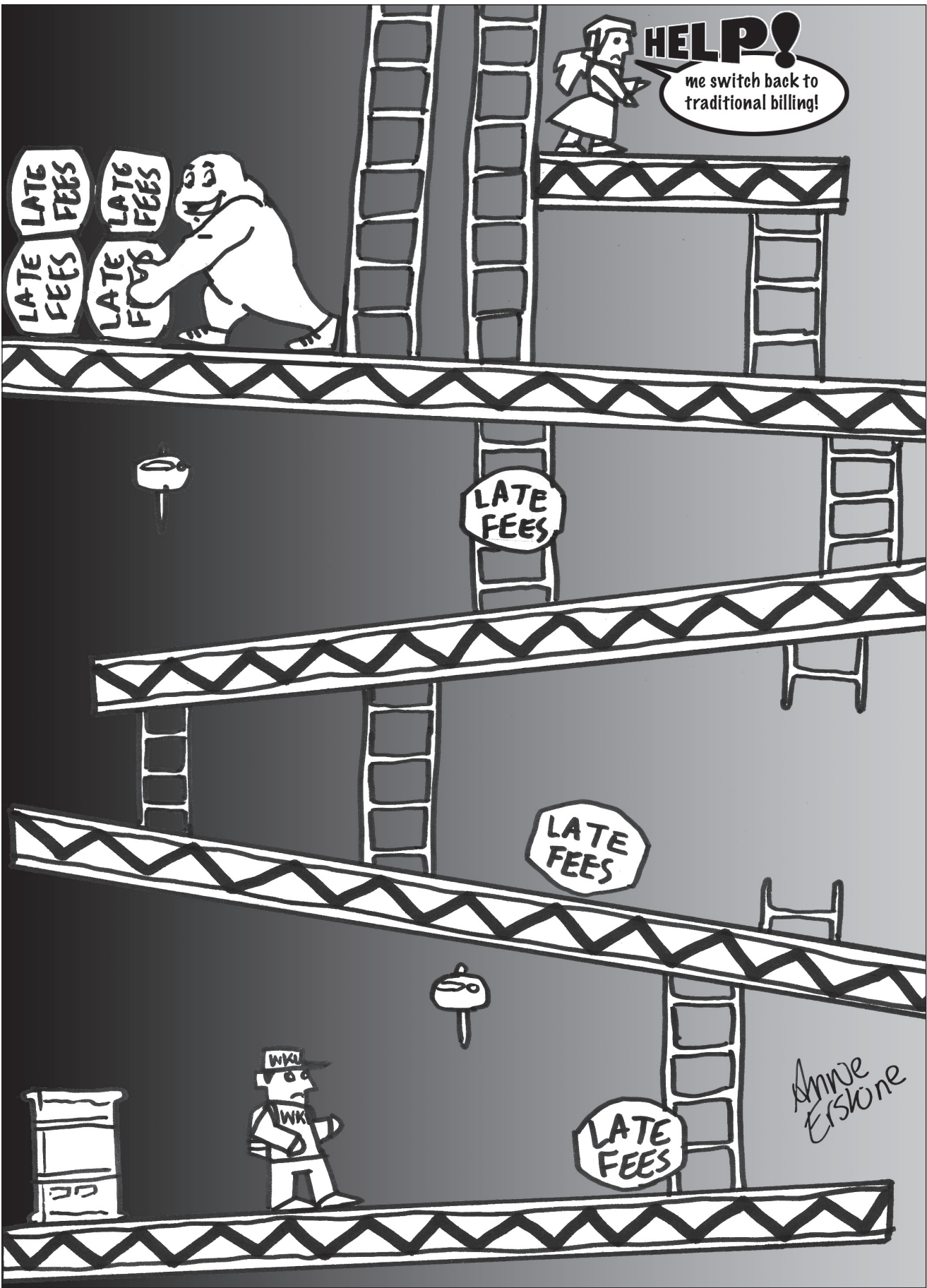
1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries MUST include your name, phone number, home town and classification or title.
4. Letters may not run in every edition due to space.
5. The Herald reserves the right to edit all letters for style, grammar, length and clarity. The Herald does NOT print libelous submissions.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions expressed in this newspaper DO NOT reflect those of Western's employees or of its administration.

OPINION

EDITORIAL



Bills, bills, bills

New billing system should have been better publicized

The issue: Western has made electronic billing (e-billing) the only bill payment option for students, who will now receive account statements through their school e-mail address.

Our view: The switch to e-billing has several advantages, but Western officials should have made the transition gradually and publicized it more thoroughly in order to avoid the headaches and confusion that will inevitably result from such a drastic change.

The best way to illustrate the abruptness of the switch to e-billing is with a comparison.

Unless Western students have been under a rock for the past two years, they know the football team has spent the past couple seasons making a very public transition to the highest level of college football.

Students heard about that transition in the Herald, on the news, in the classroom and at games. Even the napkin dispensers at Downing University Center kept students informed.

But now, with an issue that impacts every student on campus, Western switches to e-billing over Winter Break and unless students caught the ads in the Herald or the WBKO special, they would need to be a careful attendant of their inbox or mailbox to find out about the change.

Make no mistake, the Herald recognizes the advantages of e-billing. The thought of no more lost bills and more money back in Western's pocket is definitely a good thing, especially in these economic times.

Our concern lies with the switch occurring so

suddenly and without sufficient notice for students.

While officials have offered duplicate billing for more than a year, officials are no longer allowing students to receive both bills.

Such a move assumes that every student is now comfortable enough to part with thousands of dollars on the Internet, or at the very least, knowledgeable enough on their own to access and pay their bill on TopNet.

Instead of making the change between semesters, Western should have taken the spring semester to advertise their intentions and educate people on the advantages of e-billing.

Forums should have been hosted to show students exactly where and how to access their bill online and demonstrate the ease and security of the new option.

The absence of those opportunities could leave those with less technological prowess in the dark on how to pay their tuition, a shortcoming that could have serious repercussions when it comes time to drop students for non-payment.

To help show that academics are truly a priority at Western, officials should construct a more thorough plan for implementing and publicizing their next major initiative.

By taking it slower next time, the university can get everyone on the same page and ensure that nobody gets left out in the cold.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's 10-member editorial board.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
Western Kentucky University
Bowling Green, Kentucky
www.wkuherald.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Leaders should follow Constitution

One of the most unique things about our nation is its Constitution. This document is the work of many and is the embodiment of their dream of liberty and a government of the people. Knowing the extent that tyrants will go in order to retain control of their subjects, the founders believed that if they wrote down laws restricting government intervention into the lives of the people, the people themselves would remain in control. As Jefferson stated, "A government afraid of its citizens is a democracy. Citizens afraid of government is tyranny ... In questions of power, then, let no more be said of confidence in man, but bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution."

Every elected official to the federal government must swear by an oath to uphold the Constitution. Doing so is demanded by the Constitution in Article 6: Recently, the nation watched as Barack Obama was sworn in as the next president, but even before the ceremony, he had already stated that he was going to violate the document he would take an oath to protect. His nomination for Secretary of State was Senator Hillary Clinton.

Shortly after her appointment, Judicial Watch highlighted her ineligibility to serve in that office under the Constitution. The organization reported that, "According to the Ineligibility Clause of the United States Constitution, no member of Congress can be appointed to an office that has benefited from a salary increase during the time that Senator or Representative served in Congress.

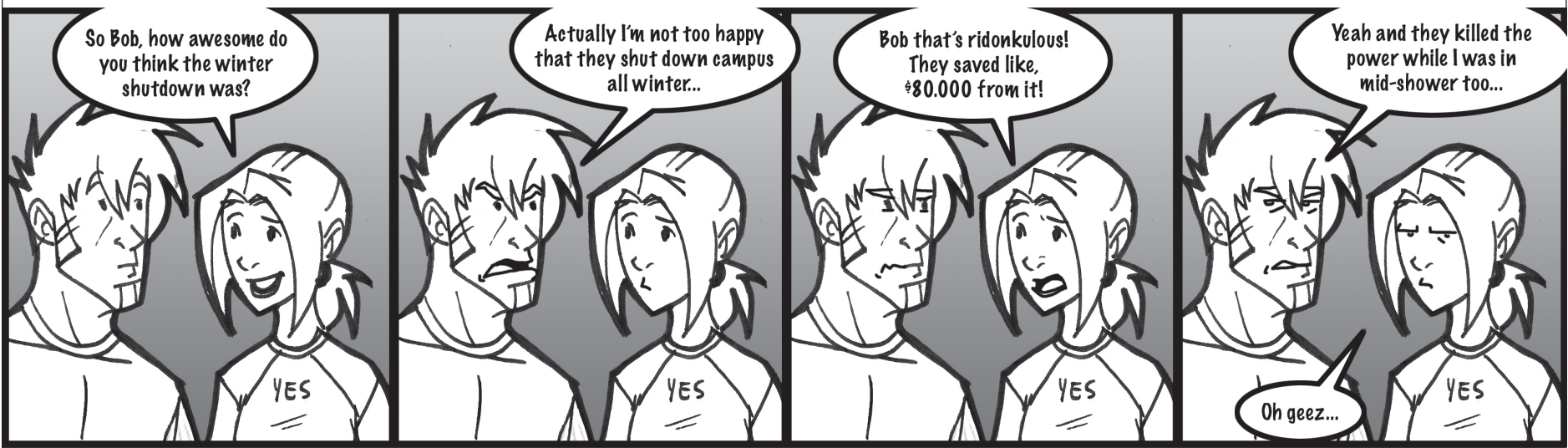
A January 2008 Executive Order signed by President Bush during Hillary Clinton's current Senate term increased the salary for Secretary of State, thereby rendering Senator Clinton ineligible for the position." They continued by highlighting what the Constitution says on the issue: "Article I, section 6 of the U.S. Constitution provides 'No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time.' The provision is seen by most as designed by our Founding Fathers to protect against corruption." This Constitutional provision hasn't stopped the new administration from going ahead with the nomination nor has it stopped Congress from approving it.

What would the Founding Fathers think of this? Certainly they wouldn't approve. The press has remained virtually silent on this issue time and time again. What good is the oath to protect the Constitution when nearly every representative in Washington will blatantly violate that oath as well as what the Constitution states? This issue isn't Republican or Democrat, since both are guilty. It is an issue of our own national security and protection of our liberties. I believe each of us needs to speak out against this damaging act of treason to our nation before it is too late. We need to get involved and restore our Constitution while we still have one.

Jason Abston
Edmonton freshman

Annie's OUTLOOK

A cartoon strip by Annie Erskine



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WHAT’S YOUR STORY?

Student overcomes mother’s death to care for brother

MAGEN MCCRAREY
diversions@chherald.com

A warm summer day began like any other for Audrey Fry: morning chats with her mother, Clyeia, and picking up her lunch while she got a routine check-up at the doctor’s office.

But this routine check up led to something more grave — her mother fell into a coma and never woke up.

Before her mother’s death, leaving school mid-semester in spring 2007 wasn’t Fry’s choice — it was essential.

The Bowling Green junior put her dreams on hold to take care of her mother who struggled with normal activities such as walking. And her illness was still a mystery.

It was very frustrating,” Fry said. “And at the same time hopeful.”

Her high-spirited anticipation through the whole process was questioned, and she crashed.

Fry paused for a moment. She gathered her thoughts, reflecting on the times she had prayed for her mother to wake up. In a moment of weakness, she wondered why she even tried.

“I decided to take time off to recover, have a grieving period,” Fry said.

Her mom was her major support system and without her

encouragement, Fry couldn’t find her purpose.

The most dramatic transition happened when Fry and her older sister Sonya Fry had to take custody of their younger brother, Lee Fry. He was only 17, and with no father or mother, they became each other’s support.

They moved in with their pastor Johnnie Leissett and his wife Betty.

Reflecting on all they had done, Fry’s face changed from an emotionless gaze to a glow.

“The pastor and his wife are a huge part of my life,” Fry said. “Of all the people, they reached out for my welfare the most.”

With her brother as her priority, Fry missed out on having a carefree life like many college students. She had to grow up.

“When he got on my nerves, I use to just walk away. But I had to develop an unconditional love,” she said.

She said it’s still difficult at times but she has to help him prepare for his future and make sure he stays in school.

Though Fry considered cosmetology school as an option to get back on track, she decided she had invested too much in Western to just give up.

“When it is all said and done, it is what she would have



KALA DIAMOND/HERALD

Bowling Green junior Audrey Fry holds a photo of herself with her mother, Clydia Fry, who died in the summer 2007. After taking a year off from school, Audrey returned to Western last semester to study Forensics. Fry said her mother would have wanted her to get an education. “Through it all you can still do it, I’m living and learning now.”

wanted,” Fry said.

It was a struggle getting back into the routine of classes last spring while balancing family duties, she said.

“I was running around like a

chicken with its head cut off!”

Fry exclaimed.

Though it will take longer to graduate than she had planned, Fry focused on getting her grade point average back up to

par, making the Dean’s List last semester.

She said she wants to be a positive light for other people.

“Not having two parents, being a family on your own

— you can still do it. There is no excuse, there should be no obstacle that is too great that you can’t overcome,” Fry said. “That’s what I am living and learning on.”

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CAMPUS GOVERNMENT

Western to implement new print policy

MARY BARCZAK
news@chherald.com

Professors may not be seeing many more paper airplanes after March 16 because students are getting a limit on the paper they can use.

Western officials plan to implement a new printing policy in March, according to an e-mail to faculty and staff sent Monday.

The new policy will limit the number of pages that students and faculty can print for free, according to the e-mail.

The limit for full-time undergraduate students will be 1,500 pages per year, according to the e-mail. Part-time undergraduates will have a limit of 1,000 pages and graduate students will have a limit of 3,000 pages. Faculty and staff will have a limit of 1,500 pages.

John Bowers, director of academic technology, proposed to the Student Government Association last semester that Western limit the amount that students can print each semester to 500 pages because of the cost.

Expenses such as ink toner, paper and maintenance kept academic technology officials from using the money on other items such as buying new computers, said Brittany-Ann Wick, head of the Student Government Association committee for academic affairs.

A majority of students voted against a quota on printing in an SGA referendum.

SGA then passed a resolution opposing the proposal's print quota on Nov. 11.

Wick said President Johnathon Boles wants a follow-up resolution before SGA approves the new printing policy.

She said the resolution would be a formality because writers of the SGA resolution tried to address all concerns about the print quota.

Some students appreciated the print quota because it would conserve paper, Wick said. But some didn't like it because they thought the original page limit was too low.

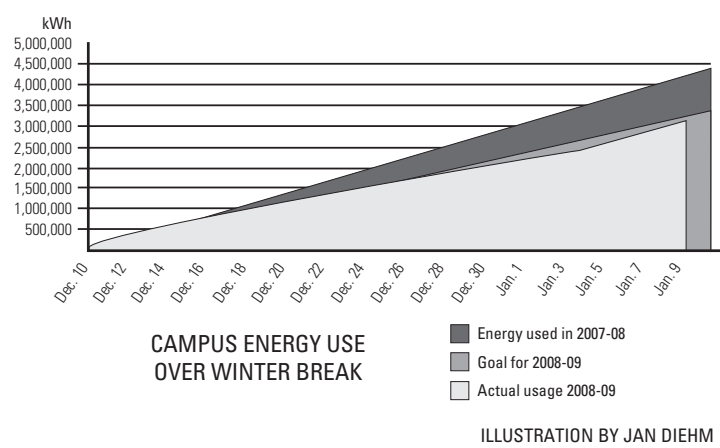
Bowling Green sophomore Margaret Goatley said the quota might be beneficial for getting students to stop wasting paper, but she still doesn't think there should be a limit on printing.

"I think that it's dumb because we pay for this stuff so there shouldn't be a limit," Goatley said.

Edmonton sophomore Rachel Gilley said the limit won't bother her because she has her own printer, but it will keep people from printing things that they don't need.

Beginning in March, after a student reaches the limit, that student will be charged five cents for each extra page printed, Wick said.

Students can only pay for extra pages with Big Red Dollars, but officials are working on other methods of payment, Wick said.



SHUTDOWN

Western had saved about 1,132,972 kilowatt-hours as of Jan. 9, according to Western's energy experiment Web site, which monitored energy usage.

"We learned what we can do when we all pitch in," Ryan-Downing said.

Western was able to shut down an extra week because commencement took place early, but that isn't expected to happen again soon, said John Osborne, vice president of campus services and facilities.

The campus will close for future breaks based on what was learned during this break, he said.

A university energy policy that will address future energy conservation measures is being finalized, Osborne said.

The policy will address how the university can conserve energy during nights and weekends, he said.

Western faces a shortfall

of about \$520,000 in its utilities budget this year, and this policy will help address that shortfall, he said.

Other state universities are also making efforts to save energy.

Students and faculty at Eastern Kentucky University were encouraged to turn off any electronic office equipment and the temperature of unoccupied buildings was lowered 10 degrees, said Bill Rhodes, assistant director of energy management and environmental resources.

Eastern will continue to lower the temperature in unoccupied buildings over nights and weekends, he said.

The University of Kentucky is facing a utilities deficit of as much as \$1 million, according to a Dec. 18 e-mail sent to students, faculty and staff by Frank Butler, executive vice president for finance and administration.

The university lowered thermostats in buildings by one or two degrees during the day and a few more degrees at night to save energy, according to the e-mail.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"We're all preserving," Ransdell said. "We're just not spending money that we've been able to."

Ransdell said he fears some universities will use tuition increases to offset budget cuts.

"You should never correlate budget cuts with raising tuition," he said.

The window is closed on big tuition increases, he said.

Beshear's proposed 2 percent cut to higher education depends on the creation of new revenue,

such as raising the tobacco tax, Blanton said.

Raising the tax from 30 cents to \$1 would generate about \$81.5 million this year, he said.

But some doubt legislators will increase the tobacco tax by that much.

Robbin Taylor, vice president for public affairs, said she doesn't think legislators will raise the tobacco tax by the 70 cents Beshear supports.

Rep. Wilson Stone, D-Scottsville, said legislation on raising the tobacco tax would be worth looking at, but a 70-cent increase is probably impractical.

Rep. Jim DeCesare, R-Rockfield, said he doesn't

support any new taxes.

"It's nothing more than a money grab," he said.

He said the state is on track to have a balanced budget now if revenue grows another 0.6 percent in the next six months.

Blanton said revenues have slowed nationally and in Kentucky, with more companies closing and increasing layoffs. He said revenue will decrease for the last six months of the fiscal year.

Stone said the national economy is so weak that it's hard to argue with the projection, but the reality might not be as bad as the forecast predicted.

"The latest numbers are not as bleak as once thought," he said.



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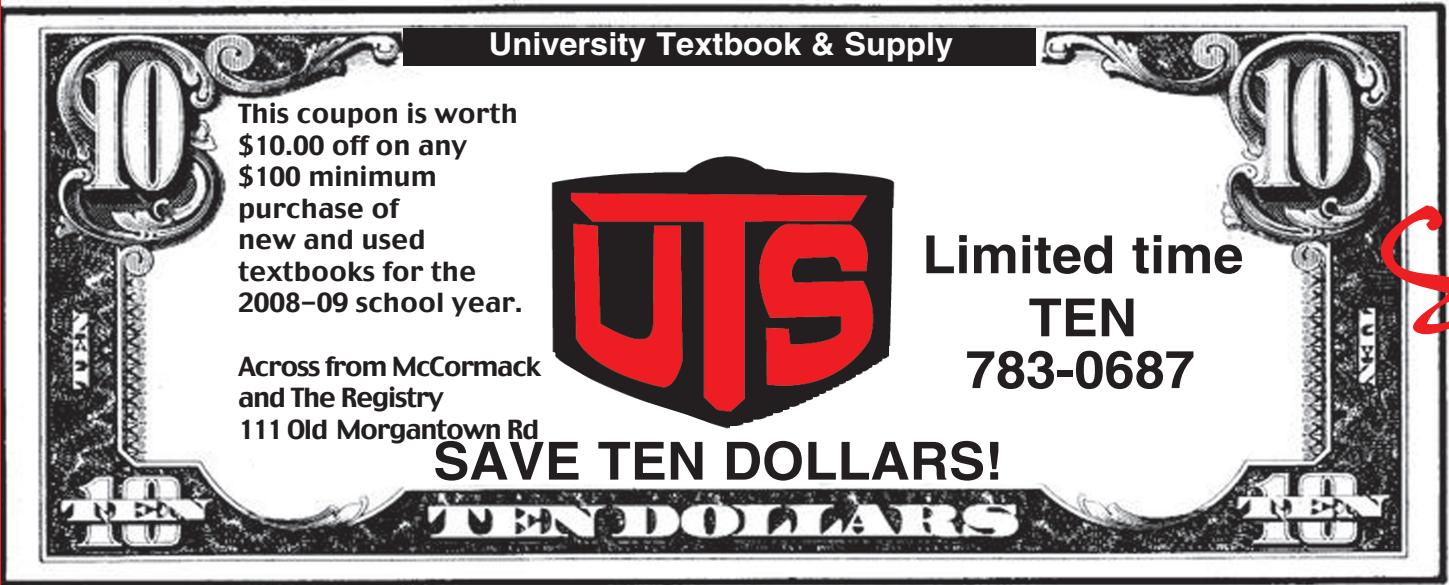


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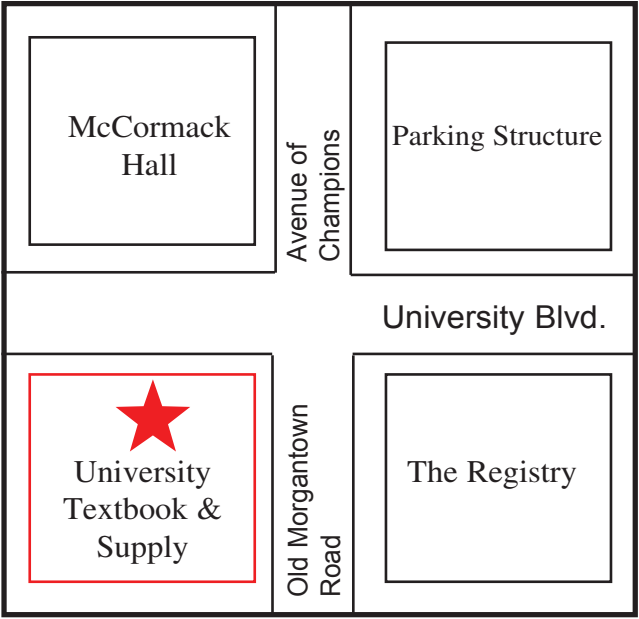
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(Far left) **Millions converge** on the National Mall in Washington D.C. for the inauguration of the nation’s 44th President, Barack Obama.

(Left) **Washington D.C. locals Avery, Artie and Ariel Smith gathered** outside the gates blocking Pennsylvania Avenue. The children came with their entire family, enduring the cold weather for more than seven hours to try to get through the gates and see the Presidential Inaugural Parade.

TRAVEL

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

“My generation and people older than me never expected anything like this to happen in our lifetime,” she said. “In my lifetime, segregation was happening.”

Union junior Shane Noem attended the inauguration with a friend.

Noem, who is the president of College Republicans, said watching the ceremony was a unique experience. He and his friend were at the front of the standing section, he said.

“Going to a democratic inauguration is not something I was jumping to do, but when you get an offer like that you can’t really pass it up,” Noem said. “An event like that isn’t going to happen again.”

The atmosphere was chaotic, Noem said.

“Nobody had any personal space,” he said. “It was elbow-to-elbow.”

It was interesting to see former President George W. Bush not in the limelight, Noem said.

“I wore a McCain-Palin shirt under my clothes to make myself feel better,” Noem said, laughing.

Dana Bradley, an associate

public health professor, flew out of Nashville with her daughter, Linnie Schell, to attend the ceremony.

As they boarded the plane, Bradley and Schell saw former Vice President Al Gore take his seat several rows in front of them.

Bradley encouraged her daughter to ask Gore for an autograph. He signed her notebook.

“It just goes to show that an inauguration is for all of us,” Bradley said.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., watched the ceremony from the inaugural stage, according to an e-mail from Courtney Norris,

deputy communications director for Sen. McConnell.

He attended the Kentucky Society of Washington Bluegrass Ball on the night before the inauguration as well as the luncheon following the inauguration with members of Congress, President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, according to the e-mail.

“Inauguration Day is a day for all Americans to celebrate,” McConnell said in a released statement. “ ... And on this Inauguration Day, we witness another marvel as America’s first African American president takes the oath of office from the Capitol steps.”

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

As Tom Hanks spoke we looked to the left to find a brigade of policemen on horseback parting the crowd, undoubtedly destined for our Port-o-Potties.

We relinquished our view as they told people to climb down from the public restrooms and the tree branches.

On Inauguration Day, we walked out the door into a crowd of people that condensed as time went on and began to get unruly. We stood huddled together, barely exchanging a word.

Eventually the sun illuminated the sky, faces and moods of the crowd as police tried to herd the traffic. We began to sing oldies at the top of our lungs, inserting “Obama” in the lyrics.

Morale of our group plummeted as we walked zombie-like through the streets of confused people.

People swarmed the interstate and gushed out of the metros, taking to the streets like some post-apocalyptic movie scene.

Behind and in front of the Washington Monument stood an incomprehensible mass of people packed tight, eyes fixated forward.

“We are one,” the theme of the concert, resounded in my head, as I

stood dumbfounded and exuberant watching the giant screens.

I spent the next hour trying to comprehend the magnitude of what I was about to witness ... the first African American president in the history of the United States of America.

The crowd of strangers became instant friends—speaking freely, joking and laughing with anyone in sight.

Sleep deprivation, cold and exhaustion fostered a latent euphoria that led to utter silliness.

A man with a two-foot plant strapped to his head expounded upon environmental issues as a kid from behind us gave a whimsical speech.

Two million journeys were culminating and climaxing simultaneously... literal journeys from around the globe, personal journeys and the journey of our nation.

Finally, Barack Obama’s face shone on the big screen and tears watered the lawn of Washington D.C. for miles.

Shouts and embraces resounded around the city and around the world and I felt history seep into my eyeballs and ears.

In the words of Barack Obama, “This inauguration is not about me. It’s about all of us.” And in that moment, the world felt smaller than ever before.

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10QUESTIONSwith Soul Train

ANGELA OLIVER
diversions@chherald.com

Q1: Who’s your least favorite opponent?
A: MTSU.

Q2: What was your most embarrassing moment?
A: We played in Murfreesboro two years ago and I was cheering in their student section. Everyone started yelling at me. I think they just took it the wrong way.

Q3: What’s the first thing you think of when you wake up?

A: Bill Cosby, my role model.

Q4: What’s your best physical feature?
A: My muscles and the fresh fades I always have.

Q5: If you could have a super power, what would it be?
A: X-ray vision.

Q6: How did you get the name Soul Train?
A: Back in 12th grade, I told people to call me that. I got the soul when it comes to academics, singing and basketball and the train for energy that lasts forever.



Q7: Boxers or briefs?
A: Briefs. With boxers, let’s just say the hot dog would be showing.

Q8: If you could choose to be immortal, would you?
A: Yeah. I’d be like Liu Kang, Mortal Kombat.

Q9: If money were no object,

what would you buy?
A: A Chevy Impala. I think they come with a lifetime warranty or something.

Q10: Who is the most beautiful girl in the world?
A: Oh boy, there are so many. The cheerleaders, Topperettes and sorority girls. They keep me motivated.

2009

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS PAGE

The Western volleyball team made that unforgettable run through the Sun Belt Conference tournament. As did the baseball team, both earning trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Things were just plain jolly. And now 2009 has come.

We’re just 27 days in, so we don’t know much, obviously, but it would appear some things need to happen for ‘09 to one-up ‘08.

Western’s men’s basketball team desperately needs consistent production from

its bench. With the exception of key sixth-man sophomore forward Sergio Kerusch, there hasn’t been much depth.

With the Toppers needing to win three games in three days in the Sun Belt Conference tournament to advance to the NCAA Tournament depth will be key down the stretch.

The women’s basketball team has seen somewhat of a letdown too. Kelly left huge shoes to be filled for the Lady Toppers, and struggled with that, going 5-4 through their first nine games in Sun Belt action.

With 11 months to go in the year, there’s a ton of action to come.

Western will be in contention for another Vic Bubas Cup, the

award for the most successful school in the Sun Belt, and the Toppers will look for its first conference championships in 2009 when the swimming and diving teams compete Feb. 18-21 in Nashville.

Western football coach David Elson’s 2009 could start off with a bang on Friday if the Board of Regents approves his contract extension through 2016. (I’ll have more thoughts on that on Thursday.)

Speaking of Elson, 2009 will be the first year that Western is eligible for bowls and a Sun Belt Conference championship as a full-fledged member of the Football Bowl Subdivision.

It wouldn’t take much for

2009 to be better than 2008 around Smith Stadium. Western opens its season at Tennessee before hosting South Florida on Sept. 12.

It’s tough to tell what the year truly holds.

By June, we will know how baseball coach Chris Finwood was able to utilize his nine seniors and the large batch of experience and talent he will have this season.

We’ll know if the Royals are out of contention by then, too.

Even around the Herald, things have improved — I encourage you to check out our new blog, chhtoppertalk.wordpress.com. It will have all sorts of information as the year goes on.

CHANGE

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS PAGE

Former offensive coordinator Kevin Wright will remain on staff as quarterbacks coach.

Dietzel coordinated a defense that gave up 375.2 yards per game last year, but he does have experience at this position. He was the defensive coordinator in 2004 and 2005. In the 2004 campaign, the Hilltoppers ranked in the Gateway Conference’s top three in four defensive

categories. Dietzel has been the special teams coordinator for the previous three seasons.

Elson had previously called the defensive plays.

Holt has been promoted to special teams coordinator after five seasons as the running backs coach. Like Dietzel, Holt

also is familiar to his new job. He served as the special teams coordinator in 2005 when his squad averaged 16.1 in punt returns, which was fourth in the nation.

“They are definitely prepared to assume these new responsibilities,” Elson said.

SWIMMING

Team prepares for Sun Belt championship

RANDALL REARDON
sports@chherald.com

With nearly three weeks remaining before Western men’s and women’s swim teams compete in the Sun Belt Conference meet, they concluded their portion of the schedule that included trips for both training and competition.

Western most recently won on both the men’s and women’s side Saturday at Southern Illinois.

The win against Southern Illinois concluded a two week stretch that included a dual win for the both the Toppers and Lady Toppers against Evansville, as well as the team’s annual training trip to Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

A quick turnaround between the training trip and the win against Evansville meant slower times against the Purple Aces.

“Everybody was really tired and we got back on Thursday and the meet (against Evansville) was Saturday (Jan. 17),” senior Trey Chelf said. “Everyone’s times were slower. For the most part, everyone was happy with their times considering how tired our bodies were.”

The Toppers took part in some of the hardest training of the season while in Fort Lauderdale, coach Bruce Marchionda said.

Overall, Marchionda said he was pleased with his team over the break.

“I thought we had a very

nice two-week training camp,” Marchionda said. “It was great to be in great weather. Everybody worked really hard, worked very efficiently, and had great attitudes.”

The trip wasn’t necessarily entirely for the purposes of intense conditioning.

“The training camp wasn’t really any harder than the previous years,” Chelf said. “But for me specifically it was because we did a lot more stroke-specific workouts, we practiced twice a day and we would do weightlifting, spinning, and cross-fit workouts.”

Senior Katie Marquess said that it was a good time for the swimmers to get closer as teammates.

“(The) training trip was awesome. I thought it was a lot harder this year the first couple of days,” Marquess said. “We’re all just really close and we helped each other get through it. It was really good. I think it was not only a good training week but it was a good bonding week.”

Both the Toppers and Lady Toppers host Louisville tomorrow night in Powell Natatorium. The meet will be their last before the Sun Belt Championships Feb. 18-21 in Nashville.

Marchionda says they will focus more on the conference meet than worry about Louisville.

“Louisville is just an opportunity to get up and race. That’s all we’re looking at that as,” he said. “I’ll trade every dual meet for a conference championship.”

— Coach Bruce Marchionda
Western’s swim coach

“Louisville is just an opportunity to get up and race. That’s all we’re looking at that as. I’ll trade every dual meet for a conference championship.”

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LEAD

CONTINUED FROM SPORTS PAGE

“(Being balanced) is the sign of a good team,” Slaughter said. “When you have all guys that can score from everywhere on the floor, I mean, it’s hard for teams to scout you when you have a balanced scoring attack like that.”

Western also picked up home wins against Middle Tennessee and New Orleans, as well as a road victory against Florida Atlantic.

Losses at Florida International and Mississippi State were the Toppers first back-to-back losses of the season.

A victory against SBC West Division leader Arkansas-Little Rock gave Western the best record in the conference, a mark it currently shares with UALR.

Senior guard Orlando Mendez-Valdez made Western history in the team’s 99-76 victory against Troy on Jan. 1 by being the first Topper to record a triple-double with

18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

“I thought he played a complete game,” McDonald said. “It shows how tough he is as a player, and I have a lot of respect for Orlando. I love him as a kid, and I love him as a player.”

Following a loss at Florida State on Dec. 28, a game in which McDonald got his first ejection as a head coach, Western got a home victory against Alabama A&M.

Western picked up solid road wins at Tulane on Dec. 6 and South Alabama on Dec. 18 to open Sun Belt play. Sandwiched between them was a demoralizing 72-40 loss at Evansville on Dec. 13. The 40 points was Western’s lowest point total in a game since a 76-49 loss at Troy on Jan. 19, 2006.

Saturday’s loss knocked Western down in the Ratings Percentage Index according to kenpom.com, now at 131, nine spots below MTSU, who leads all Sun Belt teams in the RPI at 122.

Western travels to Jonesboro, Ark., for a 7 p.m. showdown Thursday with Arkansas State.

season, the team is down to 10 players, and four of those are freshmen.

But it has picked up some help for next season. Cowles announced on Monday that former Purdue sophomore forward Keshia Mosley transferred to Western and is enrolled in classes for the spring semester.

“I’m just so excited,” Mosley said in her official introduction on Monday. “I’m just glad to be a part of the Lady Toppers now and just can’t wait to get out there.”

Mosley’s father, Alex, played for the Toppers from 1980-82 under Gene Keady and Clem Haskins.

“My dad talked about (playing at Western) all of the time,” Mosley said. “My mom, being a Delta here, and my dad playing basketball here, so at home there’s a lot of talk about WKU.”

TRACK & FIELD

Western teams take fourth and fifth in meet at SIU

JONATHAN LINTNER
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Western’s men’s and women’s track teams were able to earn top-five team finishes despite choosing not to participate in a number of events.

The Hilltoppers finished fifth and Lady Toppers fourth at the Carle/Health Alliance Invitational in Champaign, Ill.

“We didn’t enter in a lot of events,” coach Erik Jenkins said. “This was just a weekend to go out and run some events not hosted in our conference.”

One such event was the 600-meter dash won by senior Alecia

Brown.

In her second try at the event, Brown crossed the line ahead of the pack with a time of 1:31.8.

“It was a good event for Alecia and a great test to show how good she would be if she ran in another conference,” Jenkins said.

Brown was also part of a victorious 4x400-meter relay team composed of senior Valerie Brown, juniors Samantha Smith and Miaie Williams. The four were timed at 3:44.24, beating Illinois’ time of 3:44.91.

“We really enjoyed it and set our minds on doing well,” Alecia Brown said. “I’ve been training

really hard, and I think it paid off.”

Assisting in the relay sweep was the distance medley relay team of senior Ashley Moore, freshman Monique Harris, sophomore Eimear O’Brien and junior Janet Jesang.

The four recorded the second-fastest time in school history, winning the event with a time of 12:13.36.

Sprinters weren’t the only athletes breaking school records. Men’s and women’s weight throwers both recorded the second-farthest weight throws in Western history.

“We didn’t break school

records, but those are some pretty good records,” Jenkins said. “To be doing that well this early in the season is a great accomplishment.”

Junior Brian Soverns recorded a toss of 59-1.25, placing fourth in the event. On the women’s side, senior Sarah Lambrecht posted a toss of 57-0.75 to finish sixth best. Both were within four inches of holding school records.

“I just want to keep improving and get over 60 feet,” Lambrecht said.

Western returns to action in split squad meets next weekend at 10 a.m. at Indiana and Middle Tennessee State.

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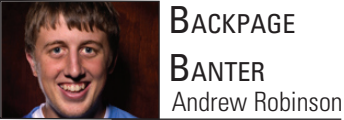
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COLUMN

Pressure is on for 2009



Let’s play pretend for a few minutes and imagine the year 2009 is a person. A newborn of sorts with a lot of pressure to live up to its older sibling 2008.

You see, 2008 around Western was that big brother or sister who cast a large shadow on the other years. It was a great year — its only weakness appears to be that the Western football team was 2-10 and the Kansas City Royals didn’t make the playoffs for another year.

But think about all the wonderful times 2008 brought this area. NCAA tournament appearances, ESPYs, Pontiac Game Changers, Courtney Lee was drafted by the Orlando Magic and Crystal Kelly played for the Sacramento Monarchs.

SEE 2009, PAGE 10

FOOTBALL

Coaches’ responsibilities change for next season

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Hoping to mix things up after finishing with its worst record in school history, Western’s football team promoted three men to coordinator responsibilities.

Walter Wells is the new offensive coordinator, Mike Dietzel will serve as the defensive coordinator while Stu Holt will be the new special teams coordinator.

“Each of these three coaches has done a tremendous job for many years in various roles on our coaching staff,” head coach David Elson said in a statement last week.

Wells steps into the offensive coordinator spot for a squad that averaged just 17.5 points per game. Wells was promoted to the coordinator position after six years as offensive line coach. Wells’ offensive line helped lead the Hilltoppers to a school record of 266 first downs in the 2007 season. He had a total of four All-American linemen in his tenure.

SEE CHANGE, PAGE 10



PHOTOS BY JAIME T. AGUILAR

Sophomore forward Arnika Brown has the ball knocked away as she goes up for a lay-up by Denver University’s Jenny Vaughan. Western lost 66-50 Saturday in Magness Arena in Denver.

Peaks & Valleys

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Despite loss, Tops lead Sun Belt East standings

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Rocky mountain high it was not. Despite a late rally, Western was handed a 78-74 loss Saturday night at Denver.

Sophomore forward Steffphon Pettigrew led the Toppers with 20 points as the Pioneers (8-11, 3-5 Sun Belt Conference West Division) held off a late Western run to secure the win.

The loss drops the Toppers to 13-7 overall and 7-2 in the Sun Belt Conference. They remained in first place in the East Division standings, one full game ahead of second-place Middle Tennessee State, the Blue Raiders lost at New Orleans on Saturday.

The game was another in a long line this season that has had the public

scratching their heads in confusion.

Western went 9-5 over the last 14 games, winning all six home games but going 3-5 on the road. Both of Western’s conference losses have come on the road to teams currently with losing records.

While beating two teams from major conferences and four teams that made postseason play last year, Western has losses of 28, 28 and 32 points in their record.

Western had won four straight games prior to Saturday’s loss, most recently a 73-68 victory at home over Louisiana-Lafayette on Jan. 22.

Five players finished in double-figures, led by junior guard A.J. Slaughter’s 18 points. Four players also finished with at least four rebounds.

SEE LEAD, PAGE 11



Senior guard Orlando Mendez-Valdez makes an attempt to steal the ball from Denver University players in the 78-74 Western loss Saturday at Magness Arena in Denver.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Lady Toppers continue search for consistency

RYAN CAREY
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Along with Alice, the rabbit carved out of an old tree near Potter Hall, some things have changed since students were last on campus.

Including the Lady Toppers (11-8, 5-4 Sun Belt East) who were practically a completely different team when most students last saw them in early December.

They had lost only twice, and those two losses were to nationally ranked top-25 teams. They hadn’t even played a Sun Belt game and they had plenty of depth.

Since then, Western has gone 5-6, senior forward Dominique Duck decided to take a medical redshirt for the remainder of the season to rehab a knee injury she suffered in April 2008.


“I think from an overall team standpoint, we are better off now as far as everybody being on the same page,” head coach Mary Taylor Cowles said. “Because we’ve had so much time, not just in practice but in games, to play together and work together.”

However, Cowles admits something that is still lacking in Western’s games is consistency.

When the team is consistent in their work ethic and intensity, the Lady Toppers are a very good team, but when they struggle in those areas, they struggle on the court as well, she said.

One very bright spot for the Lady Toppers has been sophomore forward Arnika Brown. Brown has led Western in almost every major statistical category by collecting 302 points, 250 rebounds and 44 steals.

SEE SEARCH, PAGE 11



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MEN’S BASKETBALL			WOMEN’S BASKETBALL								
SUN BELT EAST DIVISION STANDINGS			UPCOMING GAMES			SUN BELT RECORD THROUGH THE FIRST NINE GAMES IN THE MARY TAYLOR COWLES ERA			UPCOMING GAMES		
TEAM	CONF.	OVERALL	DATE	TIME	OPP.				DATE	TIME	OPP.
WKU	7-2	13-7	1/29	7 p.m.	@ Ark. State	2003	7-2*		1/29	4:30 p.m.	@ Ark. State
MTSU	6-3	12-8	1/31	7 p.m.	North Texas	2004	6-3		1/31	Noon	North Texas
Troy	6-3	11-10	2/5	7 p.m.	@ ULM	2005	9-0		2/4	7 p.m.	@ ULM
S. Ala.	4-5	11-9	2/7	1 p.m.	S. Ala	2006	7-2		2/8	2 p.m.	S. Ala
Fl. Int.	3-6	8-14	2/14	7:30 p.m.	@Troy	2007	7-2		2/14	5:15 p.m.	@ Troy
Fl. Atl.	0-9	4-17	2/19	7 p.m.	@UALR	2008	9-0*		2/18	7 p.m.	@UALR
			2/21	5 p.m.	Fl. Int.	2009	5-4		2/22	2 p.m.	Fl. Intl
			2/26	7 p.m.	Fl. Atl.				2/25	7 p.m.	Fl. Atl.
						*Won Sun Belt Conference Tournament					

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